

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 317

By Haynes

A RESOLUTION To honor the memory of Jeffrey W. Combos of Franklin.

WHEREAS, The members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the untimely death of Jeffrey W. Combos; and

WHEREAS, Jeff Combos was a commendable public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, A distinguished athlete and remarkable scholar, he was a graduate of Middle Tennessee State University; later in his life, he earned a law degree from Nashville's YMCA Night Law School; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Combos began his distinguished political career in the 1977 re-election campaign of U.S. Congressman Robin Beard; he then worked on the staff of State Senator Tom Garland, until former Governor Lamar Alexander enlisted him to work for his administration in 1979; and

WHEREAS, During his meritorious service with Governor Lamar Alexander, Jeffery W. Combos played a pivotal role in providing all Tennessee children with the opportunity to attend kindergarten, and by bringing the Saturn plant to Middle Tennessee as well as numerous other

progressive governmental initiatives that aided communities from Mountain View to Memphis; and

WHEREAS, Active for a quarter-century in Tennessee's local, state, and national Republican politics, Jeff Combos served as the Vice Chairman of George W. Bush's 2000 state fundraising campaign; after the Presidential election, he was selected to serve as Bush's personal liaison for public affairs in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, He served with acumen and enthusiasm for more than ten years as the lobbyist and Executive Director of the Tennessee Petroleum Council, in which position he earned the respect of his colleagues and the members of this legislative body alike for the exemplary quality of his work; and

WHEREAS, A conscientious and compassionate member of his community, Mr. Combos volunteered with the Grassland Athletic Association and the Williamson County Literacy Foundation; and

WHEREAS, Jeffrey W. Combos was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Jeff Combos enjoyed the loving companionship of his wife, Debbie, and was the devoted father of Katie and Drew; and

WHEREAS, He will also be sorely missed by a multitude of loving family and friends, including his mother, Jolan Filak; his brother, David Combos, his sister, Sallie Jefferson, and his father-in-law, former Senator John Rucker; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Combos was preceded in death by his father, Deszie Andrew Combos; and

WHEREAS, This caring son, father, brother, and professional has left behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, It was the Volunteer State's good fortune to have Jeffrey W. Combos live, love, and laugh among us as a keen observer and able participant in the political process; the

very epitome of the concerned citizen, he was loved and respected by all who were privileged to know him; and

WHEREAS, It is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we honor the memory of Jeffrey W. Combos, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character with his stalwart commitment to his family and community, and the courage and conviction which he served the Tennessee Petroleum Council. He will be greatly missed both professionally and personally by the members of this General Assembly; his contributions to this State are enduring, and his life of political activism and public service are committed to our hearts.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Jeff Combos.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.